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Latin America

The PAN AMERICAN UNION

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THE WAR AND THE NEW AMERICA

BY JOHN BARRETT



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THE WAR AND THE NEW AMERICA

THE NEW PAN AMERICA

[Address before the Southern Commercial Congress, Hotel Astor, New York City, Monday evening, October 15, by John Barrett, Director General of The Pan American Union, the International Bureau of the American Republics, and former United States Minister to Argentina, Colombia and Panama.]

The end of the war will be the beginning of a new era for Pan America and Pan Americanism. After the war will come a new America which will mean a new "all America," or Pan America, and a new Pan Americanism. In the crucible of this mighty struggle are being burned out the old animosity, the old distrust between North and South America. The purified residue will be a new mutual confidence, a new good-will and a new cooperation for the common good. Pan American comity and commerce, Pan American travel and trade, Pan American intercourse and intimacy will then have a new inspiration and a new force.

When the war is concluded, we will realize that it has done more than any other international influence since the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 to develop ideal and permanent Pan American solidarity; that it has accomplished more than all the diplomatic notes of a century to make the Monroe Doctrine an unquestioned principle in the relationship of nations. After the war the Monroe Doctrine must and will become a great Pan American doctrine. Then it will belong to, and be espoused by, every other American government from Canada, Cuba and Mexico south to Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, as much as by the United States. Then, being Pan American and supported by every American government, it will be forever accepted and respected by the rest of the world, and, in its essence, become a world doctrine standing for the integrity, independence and self-government of every nation, great and small.

Victory for the United States and the allies will remove for all time the only international menace to the Monroe Doctrine. The new Pan America and new Pan Americanism which will follow the war will also be so powerful in their own inherent strength and backing that never again can a new menace from the old world assert itself.

No other nation of America can honestly and logically even intimate that the United States has entered this world struggle for any selfish purpose of territorial aggrandizement or for the slightest advantage over its sister American republics. No matter what doubts and discussions there may be concerning acts and wars of the past, there can be only one opinion throughout Pan America concerning the attitude of the United States in its present course. Every man, woman and child from northern Canada to southern Chile knows absolutely in his heart that the United States is fighting for causes and principles just as dear to every South and

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Central American government, people and person as they are to the government, people and persons of the United States.

Every thoughtful statesman and commoner in every American nation must admit that victory for the enemies of the United States would mean the conquest and subjugation, directly or indirectly, not only of the United States but of the other countries of this hemisphere. It is, therefore, sublimely gratifying that the sober public sentiment of practically all the twenty Latin American republics—eighty millions of people—is overwhelmingly pro-United States and pro-ally in this struggle of democracy against autocracy. It would seem, in consequence, to be only a question of time when all the Latin American countries must follow the dictates and demands of this public sentiment and align themselves with the United States and the allies. Otherwise, they may find themselves delaying and possibly preventing the triumph and supremacy of the basic principles which inspired them to fight for their independence and upon which they wrote their constitutions and constructed their nationalities.

There should be no hasty criticism of Argentina, of Chile, of Venezuela, of Colombia, of Ecuador, or of any other Latin American government which may have not yet taken a decisive position in the present conflict. We must trust that each government is acting honestly and refuse to admit that influence and propaganda are holding these governments back in their final decision, just as we must decline to admit that such influence and propaganda kept the government of the United States for nearly three years, in the face of unspeakable irritation, from taking the final step.

On the other hand, let not any part of Pan America blind itself and refuse to read the handwriting on the wall, which tells us that there is surely, even if slowly, rising, an overpowering flood tide of public sympathy with the purposes, ideals and inspirations of the United States in this terrific fight of immortal right against mortal evil in the relations of nations. This flood, if the war continues another year, must inevitably sweep over all Latin America from the Rio Grande to the Straits of Magellan, making even benevolent neutrality impossible.

Then, when the sun shall shine on that happy day, all America—Pan America—shall, so to speak, form a choir of nations and peoples and chant in perfect unison a new hymn of Pan Americanism, a new anthem of Pan American cooperation and good-will, confidence and commerce, progress and peace, which will be taken up by all the nations and peoples of the world and will herald the coming of the day when there shall begin everlasting peace and good-will among all men and all peoples throughout all time!

PAN AMERICAN UNION,
Washington, D. C.,
October 11, 1917.



THE PAN AMERICAN UNION is the international organization and office maintained in Washington, D. C., by the twenty-one American republics, as follows: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It is devoted to the development and advancement of commerce, friendly intercourse, and good understanding among these countries. It is supported by quotas contributed by each country, based upon the population. Its affairs are administered by a Director General and Assistant Director, elected by and responsible to a Governing Board, which is composed of the Secretary of State of the United States and the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the other American governments. These two executive officers are assisted by a staff of international experts, statisticians, commercial specialists, editors, translators, compilers, librarians, clerks and stenographers. The Union publishes a Monthly Bulletin in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, which is a careful record of Pan American progress. It also publishes numerous special reports and pamphlets on various subjects of practical information. Its library, the Columbus Memorial Library, contains 36,000 volumes, 20,000 photographs, 150,000 index cards, and a large collection of maps. The Union is housed in a beautiful building erected through the munificence of Andrew Carnegie.